



# GREATER NEWARK CONSERVANCY

303-9 Washington Street • 5th Floor-Room 3 • Newark, N.J. 07102

**MISSION:** Greater Newark Conservancy's mission is to educate, train and support communities in creating environmentally safe neighborhoods through grassroots education and training, community organizing, preservation and improvement of open space, revitalization and beautification, and job training. Our guiding principle is to encourage and highlight community empowerment, pride and self-sufficiency.

**SERVICES OFFERED:** The Conservancy operates four programs:

The **Education Program** uses innovative, inquiry-driven curricula to educate Newark's children about their local and extended environment. Newark educators are offered science-based programs in a cross-curricula format and, through teacher trainings and extended teacher support, are encouraged to bring the natural world into their classrooms. During the 1999-2000 school year 7,876 students received direct lessons from Conservancy staff, 2,852 children participated in Conservancy-supported special events, and 381 teachers enrolled in Conservancy professional development workshops. The Conservancy provided educational services to 73 Newark schools, Grades K-12, creating 36,582 educational opportunities.

The **Community Greening Program** brings local residents, businesses, organizations and schools together to implement greening strategies for neighborhoods. The primary objective is to transform physically blighted blocks into well-cared for, environmentally revitalized areas with productive open spaces. To date, the Conservancy has worked with over 1,000 families to help create greener neighborhoods on 90 blocks in Newark and has transformed more than 35 vacant lots into parks, gardens, and outdoor classrooms. More than 5,000 trees and shrubs have been planted throughout the city.

The **Environmental Justice Outreach Program** organizes and empowers inner-city residents to confront and deal with urban environmental problems. Working in partnership with other nonprofits, counties and county agencies, the Conservancy ensures topics of urban clean-up and environmental health and well-being are considered a priority and remain in the forefront.

The **Job Training Program** works with youth and community residents, teaching them marketable skills in the landscaping and horticultural industry, while improving the environment of Newark and surrounding communities. Trainees receive a foundation of skills that will earn them an entry-level position in the greening/horticulture industry. In addition to classes on plant/lawn care, mulching, pruning and soil maintenance, the curriculum has recently been expanded to include lessons on business skills such as interviewing techniques, resume writing, behavior on the job and work ethics.

## URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL CENTER:

Greater Newark Conservancy is renovating the historic, 1884 Oheb Shalom Synagogue on Prince Street in downtown Newark to create New Jersey's first urban environmental center. This beautiful, three-story classic Moorish Revival building is listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. The Conservancy's \$6.4 million Capital Campaign for the new Urban Environmental and Ecological Center has now raised nearly \$4.7 million. Design work for the new Center is nearly completed and construction will commence soon after the documents are finished.